

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Informal one-day meeting

28 September 2004

Excerpts from the annotated preliminary list of items to be
included in the provisional agenda of the fifty-ninth regular
session of the General Assembly (A/59/100)

Items 103 to 107 (e)

E/CN.4/IM/2004/Misc.2

GE.04-16056

103. Promotion and protection of the rights of children

At its forty-fourth session, in 1989, the General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child (resolution 44/25). The Convention entered into force on 2 September 1990. At its fifty-fourth session, the Assembly adopted two optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (resolution 54/263): one on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and one on children in armed conflict. The first protocol entered into force on 18 January 2002 and the second on 12 February 2002.

At its fifty-eighth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session: (a) an updated report on progress achieved in realizing the commitments set out in the document entitled “A world fit for children”, and (b) a report on the rights of the child containing information on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the problems addressed in the resolution; requested the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict to continue to submit to the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Commission on Human Rights reports containing relevant information on the situation of children affected by armed conflict; and invited the independent expert for the United Nations study on violence against children to present an oral progress report on the study to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session (resolution 58/157).

Documents:

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 58/157);
- (b) Biennial report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (resolution 44/25);
- (c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (resolution 58/157).

References for the fifty-eighth session (agenda item 113)

Reports of the Secretary-General:

Status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (A/58/282)

Children and armed conflict (A/58/546-S/2003/1053 and Corr.1 and 2)

Notes by the Secretary-General:

Transmitting the annual report of his Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict (A/58/328 and Corr.1)

Drawing the attention of Member States to his report on progress towards implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, contained in document A/58/184 (A/58/329)

Note by the Secretariat on a recommendation of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on its working methods (A/C.3/58/10)

Summary records	A/C.3/58/SR.16-20, 26, 27, 32, 34, 36, 56, 58-60 and 62
Report of the Third Committee	A/58/504
Plenary meetings	A/58/PV.77 and 79
Resolution	58/157
Decision	58/534

104. Programme of activities for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, 1995-2004

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations

The Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations was established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 40/131 of 13 December 1985, 50/156 of 21 December 1995, 53/130 of 9 December 1998 and 56/140 of 19 December 2001.

At its fifty-seventh session, the General Assembly appealed to all Governments and organizations to consider contributing to the Fund, if possible with a substantial increase in the level of contributions (resolution 57/192).

In accordance with its resolution 40/131, the General Assembly will have before it at its fifty-ninth session a biennial report of the Secretary-General on the decisions approved and travel grants paid with the resources of the Fund.

Document: Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 40/131).

Voluntary Fund for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

The Voluntary Fund for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People was established pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 48/163 of 21 December 1993, 49/214 of 23 December 1994 and 50/157 of 21 December 1995, relating to the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.

In accordance with paragraph 23 of the annex to resolution 50/157 on the programme of activities for the International Decade, an Advisory Group was established in April 1996 to assist the Coordinator of the Voluntary Fund. At its ninth session, held from 22 to 26 March 2004, the Advisory Group made recommendations to the Secretary-General on project grants to indigenous communities and organizations as well as on programmes to be implemented by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

At its fifty-eighth session, the General Assembly requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to submit, through the Secretary-General, a report on the implementation of the programme of activities for the Decade to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session (resolution 58/158).

Status of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

At its twentieth session, in 1965, the General Assembly adopted the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (resolution 2106 A (XX)). The Convention entered into force on 4 January 1969.

At its fifty-seventh session, the General Assembly urged all States that had not yet become parties to the Convention to ratify it or accede to it as a matter of urgency, with a view to achieving universal ratification by 2005; and decided to consider at its fifty-ninth session the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention (resolution 57/194, sect. III).

As at 31 March 2004, 169 States had ratified or acceded to the Convention.

Document: Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 57/194, sect. III).

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

In accordance with article 8 of the Convention, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination consists of 18 experts. Members of the Committee are elected for a term of four years and are eligible for re-election. At present, the Committee is composed of the following members:

Mahmoud Aboul-Nasr (Egypt),* Nourredine Amir (Algeria),* Alexei Avtonomov (Russian Federation),** Ralph Boyd Jr. (United States of America),** Jose Francisco Cali Tzay (Guatemala),** Fatimata Binta Victoire Dah (Burkina Faso),** Régis de Gouttes (France),* Kurt Herndl (Austria),* Patricia Nozipho January-Bardill (South Africa),** Morten Kjaerum (Denmark),* Jose Augusto Lindgren Alves (Brazil),* Raghavan Vasudevan Pillai (India),** Agha Shahi (Pakistan),* Linos Alexander Sicilianos (Greece),* Tang Chengyuan (China),** Patrick Thornberry (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland),* Luis Valencia Rodríguez (Ecuador)** and Mario Jorge Yutzis (Argentina).**

* Term of office expires on 19 January 2006.

** Term of office expires on 19 January 2008.

Under article 9 of the Convention, the Committee reports annually, through the Secretary-General, to the General Assembly on its activities and may make suggestions and recommendations based on the examination of reports and information received from States parties to the Convention.

At its fifty-seventh session, the General Assembly decided to consider at its fifty-ninth session the reports of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on its sixty-second and sixty-third and its sixty-fourth and sixty-fifth sessions, the report of the Secretary-General on the financial situation of the Committee and the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention (resolution 57/194).

Document: Reports of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on its sixty-second and sixty-third sessions: Supplement No. 18 (A/58/18) and on its sixty-fourth and sixty-fifth sessions: Supplement No. 18 (A/59/18).

Measures to combat contemporary forms of racism and racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

The General Assembly considered this question at its forty-ninth to fifty seventh sessions (resolutions 49/147, 50/135, 51/79, 52/109, 53/133, 54/153, 55/83, 56/266 and 57/195).

At its fifty-eighth session, the General Assembly, *inter alia*, invited the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance to submit to the Assembly the study on the issue of political platforms that promoted or incited racial discrimination, as requested by the Commission in its resolution 2003/41 (resolution 58/159).

At the same session, the General Assembly, reaffirming its commitment to a global drive for the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and reaffirming its firm determination and its commitment to eradicate totally and unconditionally racism and racial discrimination, laid out basic general principles; and urged States, as a matter of urgency, to accede to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (resolution 58/160, sect. II).

Documents:

(a) Study by the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance on the issue of political platforms that promote or incite racial discrimination (resolution 58/159);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the global efforts for the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (resolution 58/160).

Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

At its fifty-eighth session, the General Assembly decided to close the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (resolution 58/160, sect IV).

References for the fifty-seventh session (agenda item 107)

Relevant section of the report of the Economic and Social Council for 2002: Supplement No. 3 (A/57/3/Rev.1)

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on its sixtieth and sixty-first sessions: Supplement No. 18 (A/57/18)

Reports of the Secretary-General:

Financial situation of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (A/57/333)

Status of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (A/57/334)

Summary records	A/C.3/57/SR.24-29, 31, 36, 40 and 60
Report of the Third Committee	A/57/554
Plenary meeting	A/57/PV.77 and Corr.1
Resolution	57/194

References for the fifty-eighth session (agenda item 115 (a))

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on its sixty-second and sixty-third sessions: Supplement No. 18 (A/58/18)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and the follow-up to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (A/58/80-E/2003/71)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (A/58/313)

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005: Supplement No. 7 and corrigendum (A/58/7 and Corr.1)

Summary records	A/C.3/58/SR.24-29, 33, 36, 52 and 60
Report of the Third Committee	A/58/506
Plenary meeting	A/58/PV.77
Resolutions	58/159 and 58/160
Decision	58/535

(b) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

At its fifty-seventh session, the General Assembly decided to proclaim 2004 the International Year to commemorate the Struggle against Slavery and its Abolition (resolution 57/195, sect. III).

At its fifty-eighth session, the General Assembly called upon States to elaborate action plans, in consultation with national human rights institutions, and to provide the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights with such action plans and other relevant materials on measures taken to implement the

provisions of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (resolution 58/160, sect. III).

References for the fifty-eighth session (agenda item 115 (b))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (A/58/324)

Note by the Secretary-General A/58/331

Summary records A/C.3/58/SR.24-29, 33, 36, 52 and 60

Report of the Third Committee A/58/506

Plenary meeting A/58/PV.77

Resolution 58/160

106. Right of peoples to self-determination

At its fifty-eighth session, the General Assembly reaffirmed that the universal realization of the right of all peoples, including those under colonial, foreign and alien domination, to self-determination was a fundamental condition for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights and for the preservation and promotion of such rights; requested the Commission on Human Rights to continue to give special attention to the violation of human rights, especially the right to self-determination, resulting from foreign military intervention, aggression or occupation; and requested the Secretary-General to report on the question to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session (resolution 58/161).

At the same session, the General Assembly reaffirmed that the use of mercenaries and their recruitment, financing and training were causes for grave concern to all States; urged all States to take the necessary steps and to exercise the utmost vigilance against the menace posed by the activities of mercenaries; called upon all States that had not yet done so to consider acceding to or ratifying the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries; urged all States to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the question of the use of mercenaries as a means of impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination in the fulfillment of his mandate; recommended that the Commission on Human Rights renew the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for a period of three years; and requested the Special Rapporteur to report, with specific recommendations, to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session his findings on the use of mercenaries to undermine the right of peoples to self-determination (resolution 58/162).

Documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 58/161);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the question of the use of mercenaries as a means of impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination (General Assembly resolution 58/162 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 2004/5).

References for the fifty-eighth session (agenda item 116)

Report of the Secretary-General (A/58/180)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the question of the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination (A/58/115)

Summary records	A/C.3/57/SR.24-29, 36, 39, 43 and 53
Report of the Third Committee	A/58/507
Plenary meeting	A/58/PV.77
Resolutions	58/161 and 58/162

107. Human rights questions

(a) Implementation of human rights instruments

Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights

At its thirty-eighth session, in 1983, the General Assembly considered problems relating to the reporting obligations of States parties to United Nations conventions on human rights (resolution 38/117).

The General Assembly considered the question annually from its thirty-ninth to fifty-first sessions (resolutions 39/138, 40/117, 41/121, 42/105, 43/135, 44/135, 45/85, 46/111, 47/111, 48/120, 49/178, 50/170 and 51/87) and biennially thereafter (resolutions 53/138 and 55/90).

At its fifty-seventh session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session the reports of the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies on their periodic meetings, and to report to it at that session on measures taken to implement the resolution (resolution 57/202).

Documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 57/202);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies on their fifteenth meeting (resolution 57/202) (A/58/350);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies on their sixteenth meeting (resolution 57/202);

(d) Compilation of the rules of procedure of the treaty bodies (HRI/GEN/4).

Status of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

At its thirty-ninth session, in 1984, the General Assembly adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (resolution 39/46, annex), and called upon all Governments to consider signing and ratifying the Convention as a matter of priority (resolution 39/46). The Convention entered into force on 26 June 1987, on the thirtieth day after the date of the deposit with the Secretary-General of the twentieth instrument of ratification or accession.

At its fifty-eighth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session a report on the status of the Convention (resolution 58/164).

As at 30 March 2004, 134 States had ratified or acceded to the Convention.

Document: Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 58/164).

Report of the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture

At its fifty-eighth session, the General Assembly, recalling article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Being Subjected to Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its resolution 39/46, called upon all Governments to cooperate with and assist the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the question on torture in the performance of his task, to supply all necessary information requested by the Special Rapporteur, to respond appropriately and expeditiously to his urgent appeals and to give serious consideration to requests by the Special Rapporteur to visit their countries, and urged them to enter into a constructive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur in following up his recommendations; and decided to consider the interim report of the Special Rapporteur at its fifty-ninth session (resolution 58/164).

The Commission on Human Rights considered this question at its sixtieth session (Commission resolution 2004/41).

Document: Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur (resolution 58/164).

Report of the Committee against Torture

In accordance with article 17 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Committee against

Torture is composed of 10 experts. The members of the Committee are elected for a term of four years and are eligible for re-election. At present, the Committee is composed of the following members:

Mr. Guibril Camara (Senegal),** Mr. Sayed Kassem El Masry (Egypt),* Ms. Felice Gaer (United States of America),** Mr. Claudio Grossman (Chile),** Mr. Fernando Mariño Menéndez (Spain),* Mr. Andreas Mavrommatis (Cyprus),** Mr. Julio Prado Vallejo (Ecuador),** Mr. Ole Vedel Rasmussen (Denmark),* Mr. Alexander M. Yakovlev (Russian Federation)* and Mr. Yu Mengjia (China).*

* Term of office expires on 31 December 2005.

** Term of office expires on 31 December 2007.

The Committee against Torture held its thirty-first and thirty-second sessions in Geneva from 10 to 21 November 2003 and from 3 to 21 May 2004, respectively. In accordance with article 24 of the Convention, the Committee submits an annual report on its activities to the States parties and to the General Assembly.

At its fifty-eighth session, the General Assembly invited all States ratifying or acceding to the Convention and those States that were parties to the Convention and had not yet done so to consider joining the States parties that had already made the declarations provided for in articles 21 and 22 of the Convention and to consider the possibility of withdrawing their reservations to article 20; urged all States parties to notify the Secretary-General of their acceptance of the amendments to articles 17 and 18 of the Convention as soon as possible; called upon States parties to consider signing and ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention, which provided further measures for use in the fight against and the prevention of torture; and decided to consider at its fifty-ninth session the reports of the Secretary-General, including the report of the Committee against Torture and the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the question of torture (resolution 58/164).

Documents:

(a) Report of the Committee against Torture: Supplement No. 44 (A/59/44);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur (resolution 58/164).

Status of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture

At its thirty-sixth session, in 1981, the General Assembly established the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture and requested the Secretary-General to report to it annually on the administration of the Fund (resolution 36/151). The Fund receives voluntary contributions for distribution to non-governmental organizations providing psychological, medical, social, economic, legal, humanitarian or other forms of assistance to victims of torture and their relatives.

The Fund is administered in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations by the Secretary-General, with the advice of the Board of Trustees.

At its fifty-eighth session, the General Assembly expressed its gratitude and appreciation to the Governments, organizations and individuals that had already contributed to the Fund; appealed to all Governments and organizations to contribute annually to the Fund, preferably by 1 March before the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Fund, if possible with a substantial increase in the level of contributions; requested the Secretary-General to transmit to all Governments the appeals of the General Assembly for contributions to the Fund and to continue to include the Fund on an annual basis among the programmes for which funds were pledged at the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities; also requested the Secretary-General to assist the Board of Trustees of the Fund in its appeal for contributions and in its efforts to make better known the existence of the Fund and the financial means currently available to it and, in that effort, to make use of all existing possibilities; and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session a report on the Fund (resolution 58/164).

Document: Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 58/164).

Report of the Human Rights Committee

At its twenty-first session, in 1966, the General Assembly adopted the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (resolution 2200 A (XXI)). The Covenant and the Optional Protocol thereto entered into force on 23 March 1976.

In accordance with article 28 of the Covenant, the Human Rights Committee is composed of 18 experts. The members of the Committee are elected for a term of four years and are eligible for re-election. At present, the Committee is composed of the following members:

Mr. Abdelfattah Amor (Tunisia),** Mr. Nisuke Ando (Japan),** Mr. Prafullachandra Natwarlal Bhagwati (India),** Mr. Alfredo Castillero Hoyos (Panama),** Ms. Christine Chanet (France),** Mr. Franco Depasquale (Malta),* Mr. Maurice Glèlè-Ahanhanzo (Benin),* Mr. Walter Kalin (Switzerland),** Mr. Ahmed Tawfik Khalil (Egypt),* Mr. Rajsoomer Lallah (Mauritius),* Mr. Rafael Rivas Posada (Colombia),* Sir Nigel Rodley (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland),* Mr. Martin Scheinin (Finland),* Mr. Ivan Shearer (Australia),* Mr. Hipólito Solari-Yrigoyen (Argentina),** Ms. Ruth Wedgwood (United States of America),** Mr. Roman Wieruszewski (Poland)** and Mr. Maxwell Yalden (Canada).*

* Term of office expires on 31 December 2004.

** Term of office expires on 31 December 2006.

As at 15 June 2004, 152 States had ratified or acceded to the Covenant, 104 States had ratified or acceded to the Optional Protocol and 50 States had ratified or acceded to the Second Optional Protocol aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.

At its fifty-eighth session, the General Assembly welcomed the annual reports of the Human Rights Committee submitted to the Assembly at its fifty-seventh and fifty-eighth sessions and took note of the General Comments [Nos. 30 and 31] adopted by the Committee (resolution 58/165).

Document: Report of the Human Rights Committee: Supplement No. 40 (A/59/40).

Status of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families

At its forty-fifth session, in 1990, the General Assembly adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (resolution 45/158, annex). The Convention entered into force on 1 July 2003 in accordance with paragraph 1 of its article 87, and following the twentieth instrument of ratification of the treaty on 14 March 2003. As at 31 March 2004, 25 States had ratified or acceded to the Convention.

At its fifty-eighth session, the General Assembly called once again upon all Member States that had not yet ratified the Convention to consider urgently signing and ratifying or acceding to it; requested the Secretary-General to make all necessary provisions for the timely establishment of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, referred to in article 72 of the Convention; called upon States parties to the Convention to submit in a timely manner their first periodic report, as requested in article 73 of the Convention; requested the Secretary-General to provide all facilities and assistance necessary for the promotion of the Convention through the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights and the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights; and requested the Secretary-General to submit an updated report on the status of the Convention to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session (resolution 58/166).

Document: Report of the Secretary General (resolution 58/166).

Report of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families

The First Meeting of States Parties to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families was held at Headquarters on 11 December 2003 to elect the 10 members of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, in accordance with article 72 of the Convention. At present, the Committee is composed of the following members:

Mr. Francisco Alba (Mexico),** Mr. Francisco Carrión Mena (Ecuador),** Ms. Ana Elizabeth Cubias Medina (El Salvador),** Ms. Anamaria Dieguez (Guatemala),* Mr. Ahmed Asan El-Borai (Egypt),** Mr. Abdelhamid El Jamri (Morocco),** Mr. Arthur Shatto Gakwandi (Uganda),* Mr. Jose Serrano Brillantes (Philippines),* Mr. Prasad Kariyawasam (Sri Lanka)* and Mr. Asad Taghizade (Azerbaijan).*

* Term of office expires on 31 December 2005.

** Term of office expires on 31 December 2007.

The Committee held its first session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 1 to 5 March 2004. In accordance with article 74 of the Convention, the Committee will submit an annual report on its activities to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session.

Document: Report of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families: Supplement No. 48 (A/59/48).

Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

The Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery was established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 46/122 of 17 December 1991 for the purpose of assisting representatives of non-governmental organizations from different regions, dealing with issues of contemporary forms of slavery, to participate in the deliberations of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery by providing them with financial assistance and to extend, through established channels of assistance, humanitarian, legal and financial aid to individuals whose human rights had been severely violated as a result of contemporary forms of slavery. The Fund is administered in accordance with the Financial Regulations of the United Nations by the Secretary-General, with the advice of a Board of Trustees, and can receive voluntary contributions from Governments, non-governmental organizations and other private or public entities.

The Board of Trustees held its ninth session from 26 to 30 January 2004. During the session, the Board reviewed narrative and financial reports on the use of grants paid from 1999 to 2003. Upon the recommendations made by the Board, on 23 February 2004, the Acting High Commissioner for Human Rights approved, on behalf of the Secretary-General, expenditure of about US\$ 30,000 for nine travel grants and about US\$ 150,700 for 20 project grants. Taking into consideration the requests received in 2004 and also that the Board recommended for expenditure almost all the money available at its ninth session, in order to be able to fulfill its mandate satisfactorily next year, in the Board's view, the Fund would need new voluntary contributions totaling US\$ 325,000 before the tenth session of the Board in January 2005. For the recommendations adopted and updated information on the Fund, see the report of the Secretary-General to the Commission on Human Rights (E/CN.4/2004/78 and dd.1).

Document: Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 46/122).

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

At its twenty-first session, in 1966, the General Assembly adopted the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (resolution 2200 A (XXI)). This Covenant entered into force on 3 January 1976.

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1985/17, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights is composed of 18 experts. The members of

the Committee are elected for a term of four years and are eligible for re-election. At present, the Committee is composed of the following members:

Mr. Clément Atangana (Cameroon),** Mrs. Rocío Barahona Riera (Costa Rica),* Mrs. Virginia Bonoan-Dandan (Philippines),** Mrs. Maria Virginia Bras Gomes (Portugal),** Mr. Dumitru Ceausu (Romania),* Mr. Abdessatar Grissa (Tunisia),* Mrs. Chokila Iyer (India),** Mr. Azzouz Kerdoun (Algeria),** Mr. Yuri Kolosov (Russian Federation),** Mr. Georgio Malinverni (Switzerland),* Mr. Jaime Marchan Romero (Ecuador),** Mr. Sergei Martynov (Belarus),* Mr. Ariranga Govindasamy Pillay (Mauritius),* Mr. Kenneth Osborne Rattray (Jamaica),* Mr. Eibe Riedel (Germany),** Mr. Walid M. Sa'di (Jordan),* Mr. Philippe Texier (France)* and Mr. Alvaro Tirado Mejía (Colombia).**

* Term of office expires on 31 December 2004.

** Term of office expires on 31 December 2006.

At its fifty-eighth session, the General Assembly welcomed the reports of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its twenty-fifth, twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh sessions and on its twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth sessions, and took note of General Comments adopted by the Committee (resolution 58/165).

References for the fifty-seventh session (agenda item 109 (a))

Relevant sections of the report of the Economic and Social Council for 2002: Supplement No. 3 (A/57/3/Rev.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on the effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights (A/57/476)

Summary records A/C.3/57/SR.30-32, 36, 40 and 57

Report of the Third Committee A/57/556/Add.1

Plenary meeting A/57/PV.77 and Corr.1

Resolution 57/202

References for the fifty-eighth session (agenda item 117 (a))

Relevant sections of the report of the Economic and Social Council for 2003: Supplement No. 3 (A/58/3/Rev.1)

Report of the Human Rights Committee: Supplement No. 40 (A/58/40), vol. I

Report of the Committee against Torture: Supplement No. 44 (A/58/44)

Reports of the Secretary-General:

 Status of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All

Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (A/58/221)

United Nations Voluntary Fund for the Victims of Torture (A/58/284)

Status of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery (A/58/306)

Status of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (A/58/326)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the question of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (A/58/120)

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the report of the chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies on their fifteenth meeting, held at Geneva from 23 to 27 June 2003 (A/58/350)

Summary records A/C.3/58/SR.35, 36, 42, 43, 54 and 60

Report of the Third Committee A/58/508/Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1

Plenary meeting A/58/PV.77

Resolutions 58/164 and 58/166

Decision 58/537

(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Missing persons

At its fifty-seventh session, the General Assembly took note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2002/60 of 25 April 2002 regarding the question of missing persons, and decided to remain seized of the matter at its fifty-ninth session (resolution 57/207).

No advance documentation is expected.

Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights

At its fifty-seventh session, the General Assembly requested the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to pay special attention to the most appropriate ways of assisting countries of the various regions, at their request, under the programme of technical cooperation and to make, where necessary, relevant recommendations; took note with interest of the Quito Framework for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights, aimed at strengthening national capacities for the promotion of human rights in Latin America and the Caribbean; noted with interest the results of the African regional dialogues held at

Geneva and Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, from 5 to 7 November 2001 and 24 to 26 May 2002, respectively, in providing guidance to Governments, regional organizations and non-governmental organizations as well as better links with the African Union and other subregional organizations; and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session a report on the state of regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights, to formulate concrete proposals and recommendations on ways and means to strengthen cooperation between United Nations and regional arrangements in the field of human rights and to include therein the results of action taken in pursuance of the resolution (resolution 57/210).

Document: Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 57/210).

Human rights and extreme poverty

At its fifty-seventh session, the General Assembly invited the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, within the framework of the implementation of the United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, to continue to give appropriate attention to the question of human rights and extreme poverty; called upon States, United Nations bodies, in particular the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Development Programme, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue to give appropriate attention to the links between human rights and extreme poverty; and decided to consider the question further at its fifty-ninth session (resolution 57/211).

No advance documentation is expected.

Promotion of a democratic and equitable international order

The General Assembly considered this question at its fifty-fifth and fifty-sixth sessions (resolutions 55/107 and 56/151).

At its fifty-seventh session, the General Assembly affirmed that everyone was entitled to a democratic and equitable international order and that such an order fostered the full realization of all human rights for all; identified necessary requirements of a democratic and equitable international order; and decided to continue consideration of the matter at its fifty-ninth session (resolution 57/213).

No advance documentation is expected.

Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions

At its fifty-seventh session, the General Assembly demanded that all Governments ensure that the practice of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions be brought to an end and that they take effective action to combat and eliminate the phenomenon in all its forms; reaffirmed Economic and Social Council decision 2001/266 of 24 July 2001, in which the Council endorsed the decision of the Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 2001/45 of 23 April 2001, to extend

the mandate of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions for three years; strongly urged all Governments, in particular those that had not yet done so, to respond without undue delay to the communications and requests for information transmitted to them by the Special Rapporteur, and urged them and all others concerned to cooperate with and assist the Special Rapporteur; and requested the Special Rapporteur to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the situation worldwide in regard to extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and her recommendations for more effective action to combat that phenomenon (resolution 57/214).

Document: Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur (resolution 57/214).

Question of enforced or involuntary disappearances

At its fifty-seventh session, the General Assembly urged all Governments to take appropriate legislative or other steps to prevent and suppress the practice of enforced disappearances, in keeping with the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and to take action to that end at the national and regional levels and in cooperation with the United Nations, including through the provision of technical assistance; requested the Secretary-General to keep it informed of the steps he took to secure the widespread dissemination and promotion of the Declaration and to submit to it at its fifty-ninth session a report on the steps taken to implement the resolution; and decided to consider the question of enforced disappearances, in particular the implementation of the Declaration, at its fifty-ninth session (resolution 57/215).

Document: Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 57/215).

Strengthening of the rule of law

At its fifty-seventh session, the General Assembly reaffirmed that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights remained the focal point for coordinating system-wide attention for human rights, democracy and the rule of law; requested the High Commissioner to continue to accord high priority to technical cooperation activities with regard to the rule of law and to continue to act as a catalyst in the system by, inter alia, helping other United Nations agencies and programmes, within their respective mandates, to include in their work, as appropriate, attention to institution-building in the area of the rule of law; and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session a report on the subject (resolution 57/221).

Document: Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 57/221).

Respect for the right to universal freedom of travel and the vital importance of family reunification

The General Assembly considered this question at its forty-ninth to fifty-fifth sessions (resolutions 49/182, 50/175, 51/89, 52/121, 53/143, 54/169 and 55/100).

At its fifty-seventh session, the General Assembly once again called upon all States to guarantee the universally recognized freedom of travel to all foreign nationals legally residing in their territory; and decided to continue its consideration of the question at its fifty-ninth session (resolution 57/227).

No advance documentation is expected.

Strengthening United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity

The General Assembly considered this question at its forty-fifth to fifty-seventh sessions (resolutions 45/163, 46/129, 47/131, 48/125, 49/181, 50/174, 51/105, 52/131, 53/149, 54/174, 55/104, 56/153 and 57/203).

At its fifty-eighth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to invite Member States to present practical proposals and ideas that would contribute to the strengthening of United Nations action in the field of human rights, through the promotion of international cooperation based on the principles of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity, and to submit a comprehensive report on the question to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session (resolution 58/168).

Document: Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 58/168).

Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights

The General Assembly considered this question at its fifty-first to fifty-seventh sessions (resolutions 51/100, 52/134, 53/154, 54/181, 55/109, 56/149 and 57/224).

At its fifty-eighth session, the General Assembly called upon Member States, specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations to continue to carry out a constructive dialogue and consultations for the enhancement of understanding and the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and encouraged non-governmental organizations to contribute actively to that endeavour; invited States and relevant United Nations human rights mechanisms and procedures to continue to pay attention to the importance of mutual cooperation, understanding and dialogue in ensuring the promotion and protection of all human rights; and decided to continue its consideration of the question at its fifty-ninth session (resolution 58/170).

The Commission on Human Rights considered this question at its sixtieth session (Commission resolution 2004/63).

No advance documentation is expected.

Human rights and unilateral coercive measures

The General Assembly considered this item at its fifty-first to fifty-seventh sessions (resolutions 51/103, 52/120, 53/141, 54/172, 55/110, 56/148 and 57/222).

At its fifty-eighth session, the General Assembly urged all States to refrain from adopting or implementing any unilateral measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, in particular those of a coercive nature with all their extraterritorial effects, which created obstacles to trade relations among States, thus impeding the full realization of the rights set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments, in particular the right of individuals and peoples to development; requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to give priority to the resolution in his annual report to the General Assembly; and requested the Secretary-General to continue to collect the views and information of Member States on the implications and negative effects of unilateral coercive measures on their populations and to submit an analytical report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session, highlighting the practical and preventive measures in that respect (resolution 58/171).

Document: Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 58/171).

The right to development

The General Assembly has considered this question annually since its forty-first session, in 1986, at which it adopted the Declaration on the Right to Development (resolutions 41/128, 42/117, 43/127, 44/62, 45/97, 46/123, 47/123, 48/130, 49/183, 50/184, 51/99, 52/136, 53/155, 54/175, 55/108, 56/150 and 57/223).

At its fifty-eighth session, the General Assembly endorsed the conclusions of the third session of the Working Group on the Right to Development (see E/CN.4/2002/28/Rev.1) and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session and an interim report to the Commission on Human Rights at its sixtieth session on the implementation of the resolution, including efforts undertaken at the national, regional and international levels in the promotion and realization of the right to development (resolution 58/172).

Document: Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 58/172).

The right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health

At its fifty-eighth session, the General Assembly reaffirmed that the achievement of the highest attainable level of health was a most important worldwide social goal; invited States to consider signing and ratifying the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control; and noted the request of the Commission on Human Rights to the Special Rapporteur to submit annually a report to the Commission and an interim report to the General Assembly on the activities performed under his mandate (resolution 58/173).

The Commission on Human Rights discussed the question at its sixtieth session (Commission resolution 2004/27).

Document: Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur (resolution 58/173).

Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa

At its fifty-eighth session, the General Assembly welcomed the activities of the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa at Yaoundé; noted with satisfaction the support provided for the establishment of the Centre by the host country; requested the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to provide their full assistance for the proper functioning of the Centre; and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the resolution (resolution 58/176).

Document: Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 58/176).

Human rights defenders

At its fifty-third session, in 1998, the General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (resolution 53/144).

At its fifty-sixth session, the Commission on Human Rights requested the Secretary-General to appoint a Special Representative on the situation of human rights defenders for a three-year period and called for the Special Representative, once appointed, to report annually to the Commission on Human Rights and to the General Assembly (Commission resolution 2000/61). At its fifty-ninth session, the Commission renewed the mandate of the Special Representative for a further three years (Commission resolution 2003/64). At its sixtieth session, the Commission requested the Special Representative to continue to report to the General Assembly on her activities (Commission resolution 2004/68).

The General Assembly considered the item at its fifty-fourth to fifty-seventh sessions (resolutions 54/170, 55/98, 56/163 and 57/209).

At its fifty-eighth session, the General Assembly called upon States to promote and give full effect to the Declaration; called upon all States to take all necessary measures to ensure the protection of human rights defenders, at both the local and the national levels; urged States to ensure that any measures to combat terrorism and preserve national security complied with their obligations under international law; emphasized the importance of combating impunity for threats, attacks and acts of intimidation against human rights defenders; invited Governments to consider translating the Declaration into national languages, and to disseminate it widely; invited relevant United Nations bodies to give due consideration to the Declaration and to the reports of the Special Representative; and decided to consider the question at its fifty-ninth session (58/178).

Document: Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Representative (Commission resolution 2004/68).

Follow-up to the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education

The General Assembly considered the question of a decade for human rights education at its forty-eighth session, in 1993 (resolution 48/127). At its forty-ninth session, the Assembly proclaimed the 10-year period beginning on 1 January 1995 the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education (1995-2004) and welcomed the Plan of Action as contained in the report of the Secretary-General (resolution 49/184). The Assembly also considered the question at its fiftieth to fifty-seventh sessions (resolutions 50/177, 51/104, 52/127, 53/153, 54/161, 55/94, 56/167 and 57/212).

At its fifty-eighth session, the General Assembly decided to dedicate a plenary meeting during its fifty-ninth session on the occasion of Human Rights Day, 10 December 2004, to review the achievements of the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995-2004, and to discuss possible future activities for the enhancement of human rights education (resolution 58/181).

The Commission on Human Rights, at its sixtieth session, recommended that the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2004 recommend that the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session proclaim a world programme for human rights education, to begin on 1 January 2005, structured in consecutive phases; and requested the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to prepare and submit for consideration and adoption by the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session a plan of action for the first phase (2005-2007) of the proposed world programme, focusing on primary and secondary school systems (Commission resolution 2004/71).

Document: Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (Commission resolution 2004/71).

Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance

At its fifty-eighth session, the General Assembly, deeply concerned at the overall rise in intolerance and discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief, emphasized the importance of a continued and strengthened dialogue among religions or beliefs to promote greater tolerance, respect and mutual understanding; and decided to consider the question at its fifty-ninth session and requested the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on freedom of religion or belief to submit an interim report to the Assembly on the item (resolution 58/184).

The Commission on Human Rights considered this question at its sixtieth session (Commission resolution 2004/36).

Document: Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur (resolution 58/184).

In-depth study on all forms of violence against women

At its fifty-eighth session, the General Assembly, affirming that the term “violence against women” meant any act of gender-based violence, whether occurring in public or in private life, requested the Secretary-General to conduct an in-depth study available to all Member States and observers, as well as other United Nations stakeholders, and to submit a progress report on the study to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session (resolution 58/185).

Document: Progress report of the Secretary-General (resolution 58/185).

The right to food

The General Assembly considered this question at its fifty-sixth and fifty-seventh sessions (resolutions 56/155 and 57/226).

At its fifty-eighth session, the General Assembly requested the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the right to food to submit a comprehensive report to the Commission at its sixtieth session (E/CN.4/2004/10) and an interim report to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of the resolution (resolution 58/186).

The Commission on Human Rights considered the question at its sixtieth session (Commission resolution 2004/19).

Document: Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur (resolution 58/186).

Protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism

At its fifty-eighth session, the General Assembly reaffirmed that States must ensure that any measure taken to combat terrorism complied with their obligations under international law; encouraged States, while countering terrorism, to take into account relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions on human rights and to consider the recommendations of the special procedures and mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights and the relevant comments and views of United Nations human rights treaty bodies; requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue: (a) to examine the question of the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, (b) to make general recommendations concerning the obligation of States to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms while taking actions to counter terrorism, and (c) to provide assistance and advice to States, upon their request, on the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, as well as to relevant United Nations bodies; also requested the High Commissioner to submit a study to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the extent to which the human rights special procedures and treaty monitoring bodies were able to address the compatibility of national counter-terrorism measures with international human rights obligations in their work; and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the

implementation of the resolution to the Commission on Human Rights at its sixtieth session and to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session (resolution 58/187).

The Commission on Human Rights considered this question at its sixtieth session (Commission resolution 2004/87).

Documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 58/187);

(b) Study by the High Commissioner for Human Rights (resolution 58/187).

Respect for the purposes and principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations to achieve international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and in solving international problems of a humanitarian character

The General Assembly considered this question at its forty-fourth and forty-fifth sessions (resolutions 44/147 and 45/151) under the agenda item entitled “Enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections”, and at its forty-sixth to forty-ninth, fifty-second and fifty-fifth to fifty-seventh sessions (resolutions 46/130, 47/130, 48/124, 49/180, 52/119, 55/101, 56/152 and 57/217) under the present sub-item.

At its fifty-eighth session, the General Assembly called upon all States to cooperate fully, through constructive dialogue, to ensure the promotion and protection of all human rights for all and in promoting peaceful solutions to international problems of a humanitarian character and, in their actions towards that purpose, to comply strictly with the principles and norms of international law, inter alia, by fully respecting international human rights and humanitarian law; and decided to consider the question at its fifty-ninth session (resolution 58/188).

No advance documentation is expected.

Protection of migrants

At its fifty-eighth session, the General Assembly acknowledged the entry into force of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families; requested the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the human rights of migrants to continue taking into account the recommendations contained in the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action in the performance of her mandate, tasks and duties; and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the resolution, and requested the Special Rapporteur to submit to the Assembly at the same session an interim report on the fulfillment of her mandate (resolution 58/190).

At its sixtieth session, the Commission on Human Rights requested the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants to submit a report on her activities to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session (Commission resolution 2004/53).

Documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General (Assembly resolution 58/190);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants (Commission resolution 2004/53).

Globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights

The General Assembly considered this question at its fifty-fourth to fifty-seventh sessions (resolutions 54/165, 55/102, 56/165 and 57/205).

At its fifty-seventh session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to seek further the views of Member States and relevant agencies of the United Nations system and to submit a substantive report on the subject to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session (resolution 58/193).

Document: Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 58/193).

Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities

At its fifty-eighth session, the General Assembly decided that the Ad Hoc Committee should hold, within existing resources, two sessions in 2004 of 10 working days each, prior to the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly; and requested the Secretary-General to transmit a comprehensive report of the Ad Hoc Committee to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session and to report on the implementation of paragraphs 7 to 9 of the resolution (resolution 58/246).

Documents:

(a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (resolution 58/246);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the progress of efforts to ensure the full recognition and enjoyment of the human rights of persons with disabilities (Commission on Human Rights resolution 2002/61 and Economic and Social Council decision 2002/265).

References for the fifty-seventh session (agenda item 109 (b))

Reports of the Secretary-General:

Question of enforced or involuntary disappearances (A/57/140)

Strengthening the rule of law (A/57/275)

Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights (A/57/283)

Human rights and extreme poverty (A/57/369)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (A/57/138)

Summary records	A/C.3/57/SR.34-38, 40-46 and 48-59
Reports of the Third Committee	A/57/556/Add.2 and Corr.1-4
Plenary meeting	A/57/PV.77 and Corr.1
Resolutions	57/207, 57/210, 57/211, 57/213 to 57/215, 57/221 and 57/227

References for the fifty-eighth session (agenda item 117 (b))

Reports of the Secretary-General:

Protection of migrants (A/58/121)

Progress of efforts to ensure the full recognition and enjoyment of the human rights of persons with disabilities (A/58/181 and Add.1)

Strengthening United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity (A/58/185 and Add.1 and 2)

Globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights (A/58/257)

Protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism (A/58/266)

The right to development (A/58/276 and Add.1)

Human rights and unilateral coercive measures (A/58/279)

Notes by the Secretary-General transmitting:

Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (A/58/118 and Corr.1)

Report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the human rights of migrants (A/58/275)

Interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on freedom of religion or belief (A/58/296)

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on education and public information activities in the field of human rights (A/58/318)

Report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the right to food (A/58/330)

Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/58/7/Add.21) (relates to items 117 (b) and 121)

Summary records	A/C.3/58/SR.37-55, 57, 58 and 61; A/C.5/58/SR.28 and 30
Report of the Third Committee	A/58/508/Add.2
Report of the Fifth Committee	A/58/650
Plenary meetings	A/58/PV.77 and 79
Resolutions	58/168, 58/170 to 58/173, 58/176, 58/178, 58/181, 58/184 to 58/188, 58/190, 58/193 and 58/246
Decision	58/538

(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

The situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran

At its fortieth session, in 1984, the Commission on Human Rights requested the Chairman to appoint a Special Representative of the Commission whose mandate would be to establish contacts with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to make a thorough study of the human rights situation in that country and to submit conclusions and appropriate suggestions to the Commission at its forty-first session (Commission resolution 1984/54). The mandate of the Special Representative has been renewed annually since then. At its fifty-seventh session, in 2001, the Commission on Human Rights extended the mandate of the Special Representative for a further year (Commission resolution 2001/17). His last report is contained in document E/CN.4/2002/42.

At its fifty-eighth session, the General Assembly called upon the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran: (a) to abide by its obligations freely undertaken under the International Covenants on Human Rights and other international human rights instruments; (b) to respond fully to the recommendations of the Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights on Arbitrary Detention; (c) to continue to cooperate with United Nations mechanisms, in particular with the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression and the Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, and to respond fully to their recommendations; (d) to expedite judicial reform, to guarantee the dignity of the individual and to ensure the full application of due process of law and fair and transparent procedures by an independent and impartial judiciary; (e) to appoint an impartial prosecutor; (f) to eliminate all forms of discrimination based on religious

grounds or against persons belonging to minorities, including the Baha'is, Christians, Jews and Sunnis; and (g) to take all necessary measures to end amputation and public flogging and to pursue vigorously penitentiary reform; and decided to continue its examination of the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, paying particular attention to further developments, including the situation of the Baha'is and other minority groups, at its fifty-ninth session (resolution 58/195).

No advance documentation is expected.

Situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

At its fiftieth session, in 1994, the Commission on Human Rights invited its Chairman to appoint a Special Rapporteur mandated to establish direct contact with the authorities and the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and to gather information on the situation of human rights there, including information supplied by non-governmental organizations (Commission resolution 1994/87). The mandate of the Special Rapporteur has been renewed annually since then.

At its fifty-eighth session, the General Assembly urged all parties to the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to continue to respect their obligations as regards the implementation of the Transitional Constitution; to implement all necessary measures to put an end to the widespread violations of human rights and to impunity, in particular with regard to sexual violence against women and children; to protect human rights and to respect international humanitarian law, in particular by ensuring the safety, security and freedom of movement of all civilians, as well as United Nations and associated personnel, and the unhindered access of humanitarian personnel to all of the affected population throughout the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo; called upon the Government of National Unity and Transition to take specific measures to strengthen the transitional institutions and to re-establish stability and the rule of law over the entire territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo; to comply fully with its obligations under international human rights instruments and to continue to cooperate with United Nations mechanisms for the protection of human rights and further strengthen its cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; to carry out a comprehensive reform of the judicial system; to reinstate the moratorium on capital punishment and adhere to its commitment to progressively abolish the death penalty; and to cooperate with the International Criminal Court and to continue to cooperate with the International Tribunal for Rwanda; and requested the Special Rapporteurs of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and a member of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances of the Commission to carry out a mission of investigation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session (resolution 58/196).

At its sixtieth session, the Commission on Human Rights welcomed the report submitted by the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the

General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session and thanked her for her work; decided to appoint an independent expert to provide assistance to the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the field of human rights, to study the evolving situation of human rights in the country and to verify that its obligations in that field were being fulfilled; and requested the independent expert to submit a progress report on the implementation of the Commission resolution entitled 'Technical cooperation and advisory services in the Democratic Republic of the Congo' to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session (Commission resolution 2004/84).

Document: Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the progress report of the independent expert (General Assembly resolution 58/196 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 2004/84).

Situation of human rights in Myanmar

At its forty-eighth session, in 1992, the Commission on Human Rights decided to nominate a special rapporteur to establish direct contacts with the Government and the people of Myanmar, including political leaders deprived of their liberty, their families and lawyers, with a view to examining the situation of human rights in Myanmar and following any progress made towards the transfer of power to a civilian government and the drafting of a new constitution, the lifting of restrictions on personal freedoms and the restoration of human rights in Myanmar (Commission resolution 1992/58). The mandate of the Special Rapporteur has been renewed annually since then.

At its fifty-eighth session, the General Assembly strongly urged the Government of Myanmar to enhance cooperation with the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Myanmar and the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Myanmar in order to assess first-hand the situation after 30 May 2003, to bring the country towards a transition to civilian rule, to ensure that they were both granted full and free access to Myanmar and that all persons cooperating with them were not subjected to any form of intimidation, harassment or punishment and, while in Myanmar, to provide them with equal access to the leaders and members of all the country's political parties, including the National League for Democracy; requested the Secretary-General to continue to provide his good offices and to pursue his discussions on the situation of human rights and the restoration of democracy with the Government and people of Myanmar, to give all necessary assistance to enable his Special Envoy and the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Myanmar to enable them to discharge fully their respective mandates, and to report to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the progress made in the implementation of the resolution (resolution 58/247).

At its sixtieth session, the Commission on Human Rights requested the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session (Commission resolution 2004/61).

Documents:

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General (Assembly resolution 58/247);
- (b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur (Commission resolution 2004/61).

References for the fifty-eighth session (agenda item 117 (c))

Report of the Secretary-General on the human rights situation in Myanmar (A/58/325 and Add.1)

Notes by the Secretary-General transmitting:

Report of the mission of the Special Rapporteurs of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and of a member of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances of the Commission (A/58/127)

Interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (A/58/219)

Report of his Special Representative on internally displaced persons (A/58/393)

Interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the rights of everyone to enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health (A/58/427)

Interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (A/58/534)

Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/58/7/Add.22) (relates to items 117 (c) and 121)

Summary records	A/C.3/58/SR.16, 37-48, 52, 54, 55, 61 and 62; A/C.5/58/SR.28 and 30
Report of the Third Committee	A/58/508/Add.3
Report of the Fifth Committee	A/58/651 (relates to items 117 (c) and 121)
Plenary meetings	A/58/PV.77 and PV.79
Resolutions	58/195, 58/196 and 58/247
Decision	558/539

(d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

At its forty-eighth session, in 1993, the General Assembly endorsed the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, and requested the Secretary-General to report annually to the Assembly on the measures taken and the progress achieved in the implementation of the recommendations of the Conference (resolution 48/121).

The General Assembly also considered the question at its forty-ninth to fifty-seventh sessions (resolutions 49/208, 50/201, 51/118, 52/148 and 53/166 and decisions 54/435, 55/422, 56/403 and 57/535).

At its fifty-eighth session, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Third Committee (A/58/508/Add.4) (decision 58/540).

Document: Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 48/121).

References for the fifty-eight session (agenda item 117 (d))

Report of the Third Committee A/58/508/Add.4

Plenary meeting A/57/PV.77

Decision 58/540

(e) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

At its forty-eighth session, in 1993, the General Assembly decided to create the post of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and requested the High Commissioner to report annually to the Commission on Human Rights and, through the Economic and Social Council, to the Assembly (resolution 48/141).

At its fiftieth session, the General Assembly decided to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-first and subsequent sessions a sub-item entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights" under the item entitled "Human rights questions" (decision 50/464).

At its fifty-eighth session, the General Assembly took note of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/58/36) (decision 58/541).

At its resumed fifty-eighth session, the General Assembly, on 25 February 2004, approved the appointment by the Secretary-General of Ms. Louise Arbour (Canada) as United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for a term of office of four years (decision 58/417). In a note dated 13 May 2004, the Secretary-General informed the Assembly that Ms. Arbour's term of office would be from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2008 (A/58/718/Add.1).

Document: Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights: Supplement No. 36 (A/59/36).

References for the fifty-eighth session (agenda item 117 (e))

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights: Supplement
No. 36 (A/58/36)

Note by the Secretary-General on the approval of the appointment of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/58/718 and Add.1)

Summary records *A/C.3/58/SR.37-48 and 62*

Report of the Third Committee A/58/508/Add.5

Plenary meetings A/58/PV.77 and PV.81

Decisions 58/417, 58/536 and 58/541